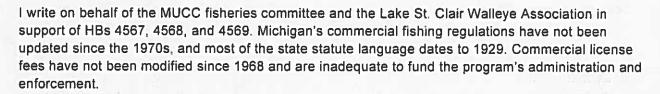
Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Matural Resources and Outdoor Heritage
PO 80x 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

January 30, 2020

RE: HB 4567-69

Dear Chairman Brandt Iden and House Ways and Means Committee Members:



Today, recreational anglers bear the burden of subsidizing the commercial industry. These funds that could otherwise be used for habitat improvement, fish stocking, and fisheries education programs are being used to keep a commercial industry afloat. The legislation referenced above is supported by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, local, state and national conservation organizations, and communities around the state.

The Great Lakes are a big factor in Michigan's economy. Michigan, like other Great Lakes states, has seen outdoor recreation generate billions in economic output and hundreds of thousands of jobs. Last year 1.1 million people bought a fishing license generating \$26 million dollars. Those dollars along with monies from the Dingell-Johnson Act — which put a fee on fishing equipment in order to fund the state's wildlife conservation and management activities go towards statewide conservation efforts last year, including bald eagle banding and monitoring work.

Money needed for conservation and management activities does not come from Michigan's taxpayers. It comes through the license and equipment purchases made by Michigan's sportsmen and sportswomen. Michigan's hunters and anglers fund conservation and management of many species that would not otherwise be possible. All of the funds from licenses, bait and tackle, fuel, food, lodging and a whole host of other incidentals go towards conserving species across the state. Michigan's sport and recreational fishery is something that should not be put at risk by allowing commercial fishing to be able to take game fish.

Taking into account the value of the sport and recreational fishing in all aspects of Michigan's economy, tourism, national exposure, etc. I am asking that you support HB 4567-69.



Senate Natural Resource Committee October 21, 2019 Page 2

Sincerely,

Tim Muir President- Lake St. Clair Walleye Association MUCC Fisheries Committee Chair